

Developmental Center, Quakertown Community Day, Quakertown Alive, YMCA and A Women's Place.

Also, they proudly participate in the March of Dimes Walk, American Cancer Society, Relay for Life, Quakertown Cares, Quakertown Food Pantry, and the Sarah Parvin Soccer Fest.

The club annually awards two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors at Quakertown Community High School.

Congratulations to the Quakertown Business and Professional Women's Club for inspiring women to achieve their personal goals and contribute to the greater community.

#### THE GROWING CRISIS IN AFRICA'S SAHEL REGION

#### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, which I chair, held a hearing that examined the challenges faced by the nations of Africa's Sahel region, especially the spread of terrorism and drug trafficking in the area. These problems alone pose a danger to the security of both the Sahel and developed countries, not only because of air traffic to West Africa that transits northern Mali, but also because of the use of the region as a base of attacks by Islamic extremists on Western targets. Moreover, the preexisting humanitarian crisis is now worsened, as are human rights concerns. The underlying political instability is becoming equally serious.

We held the hearing as a joint session because the threat we face goes beyond the jurisdiction of one subcommittee. It involves not only Africa's Sahel region, but also countries in North Africa, specifically Algeria and Libya. It also involves terrorist groups originating from and based in nations outside the Sahel. It is a sign of how seriously the Foreign Affairs Committee considers this matter that our three subcommittees have come together today to consider this matter.

There are various definitions of the Sahel, but for the purpose of the hearing, we meant the nations of Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad.

In early 2012, the Government of Mali was overthrown in a military coup and subsequently lost control of the northern area of the country, which constitutes more than half of its land area. Mali had long been considered a stable example of African democracy, but as we learned in our Subcommittee's hearing in June 2012, the coup and resulting loss of so much territory revealed a hollowness and rot within the Mali democratic system. The influx of well-armed terrorist groups, broken promises to neglected ethnic groups, lack of adherence to democratic principles and rampant drug smuggling all made the Mali government vulnerable to breakdown. We must ask now whether other countries in Africa's Sahel region are also more vulnerable than we think.

Mali provided a staging ground for al-Qaeda in the Islamic Mahgreb, or AQIM, which is daily becoming an ever-greater threat in the region and perhaps globally. AQIM is

considered the best funded of all al-Qaeda affiliates and, through its ties to other terrorist groups, may be funding their activities as well.

In a July Subcommittee hearing last year, we learned that Boko Haram in Nigeria is not a unified organization, but rather various factions—some of which are focused on embarrassing the Nigerian government, but others that have a more global jihadist view. It is the latter that have been present in northern Mali and pose a threat to Western interests. Boko Haram attacks led Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan last week to declare a state of emergency in three northern states in his country. A radical Boko Haram splinter group, known as Ansaru, may have attacked Nigerian troops en route to the peacekeeping operation in Mali.

In Mali, three terrorist groups dominate the rebellion that split off the North: MUJWA, a splinter group of AQIM; Ansar al Deen, an Islamist Tuareg rebel group, and the MNLA, a more secular Tuareg group. These groups have different aims and sometimes clash with one another. Nevertheless, they collectively have posed and continue to pose a threat to the peace in Mali and the region. As a result of the rebel actions in northern Mali, there currently are more than 300,000 internally displaced persons in Mali, more than 74,000 refugees in Mauritania, 50,000 refugees in Niger and nearly 50,000 refugees in Burkina Faso. The displacement of nearly half a million Malians strains already-scarce resources in the Sahel, with aid recipients often in remote areas.

French forces were able to forestall a rebel advance into southern Mali earlier this year, and an African military contingent is in the process of being deployed to Mali even now. However, chasing rebels out of Mali's major northern towns will be easier than ending ongoing terrorist attacks or reconciling ethnic groups whose enmity has grown over the last year.

#### TRIBUTE TO JANE MARKS

#### HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jane Marks for her years of work helping families affected by Alzheimer's disease, not only in West Virginia, but across the United States of America.

Jane Marks joined the Alzheimer's Association, West Virginia Chapter in 2001 as Executive Director and has been serving in the role as a tireless advocate ever since. Through her work with the State chapter, Jane has raised the association's profile by expanding their programmatic reach and championing various policy initiatives.

Recently, Jane served on the 2012–2014 Alzheimer's Association Strategic Plan Steering Committee, which aimed to aggressively advance their mission to eliminate Alzheimer's disease. In addition, she presented at the White House Conference on Aging Solutions Forum and has testified at numerous legislative committee hearings. Jane has also developed a wide variety of training and curriculum for families and caregivers, focusing on all facets of Alzheimer's, from caring for the baby

boomer generation to a new extended learning course in partnership with West Virginia University.

On May 23, Jane Marks will receive the 2013 Rockefeller Award for her outstanding support and dedication to the cause of Alzheimer's disease in West Virginia, and indeed, throughout the United States. Jane is truly deserving of this honor, as thousands of Alzheimer's families, including my own, have her to thank for many years fighting this disease and helping those affected by it. After twelve years as Executive Director, Jane will be retiring June, however, she will remain a passionate advocate for everyone facing this terrible disease.

Jane lives in Charleston with her husband, John. She has two children, John Thomas and Elizabeth, and is expecting her first grandchild in just a few weeks.

Mr. Speaker, the State of West Virginia, the United States of America, and my own family owe Jane Marks a sincere and heartfelt thanks for her tireless service to everyone affected by Alzheimer's disease.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF LANDSMAN WALTER P. JOHNSTON

#### HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2013*

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to honor Civil War Medal of Honor recipient Landsman Walter P. Johnston.

At the young age of 13, Landsman Johnston bravely enlisted in the United States Navy. He was assigned to the USS *Fort Hindman*, a steamboat built in Jeffersonville, Indiana. During an engagement near Harrisonburg, Louisiana, Landsman Johnston suffered a severe hand wound that dramatically impaired his physical condition. Despite his horrendous injury, Landsman Johnston bravely took the place of another seaman to sponge and lead one of the cannons against the Confederate forces. The USS *Fort Hindman* was severely damaged in the battle, but thanks to the heroism of Landsman Johnston and his fellow sailors, the ship lived to see another day. After serving in the Navy, Landsman Johnston moved to La Porte, Indiana where he worked in the broom manufacturing business, until he passed away on May 8th, 1888 at the age of 39.

Too often, the heroic tales of our Nation's brave servicemen are lost to the back pages of history. Thanks to the hard work of Ms. Colleen Malinowski and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Landsman Walter P. Johnston's legacy has been revived. Landsman Johnston leaves behind an incredible legacy that will live on to inspire many Hoosiers. His life is a testament to the American fighting spirit that still lives on in all our men and women currently serving in the Armed Forces.

I am honored to recognize the selfless heroics of Landsman Walter P. Johnston. Joining Hoosiers across the State, we remember his brave actions that helped preserve the lives of his fellow sailors, and the Union.